(a) whether Government are aware that mobile service has not been put in operation or not in operating properly in Khagaria in Bihar due to telephone exchange being in disorder;

(b) if so, by when the mobile service would be launched with the use of modern technology; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing cellular mobile telephone service in Khagaria town in Bihar since December, 2002 using Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM), a modern technology. The service is working there satisfactorily. However, there may be congestion at some places in Khagaria sometimes during busy hours due to network capacity constraints. BSNL has already taken action to enhance the mobile network capacity by additional 2000 lines in Khagaria during the current financial year.

Shortage of Employees in Gogri Telephone Exchange, Bihar

†3241. SHRI VIDYA SAGAR NISHAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is acute shortage of employees in the Telephone Exchange of Gogri, Khagaria in Bihar State;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) if not, by when the employees will be appointed; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No Sir. There is no shortage of staff at Telephone Exchange, Gogri.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Broadband connections in Jharkhand

†3242. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.